

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A function managing apparatus for communicating with a user terminal, comprising:

5 a receiving unit configured to receive from the user terminal a new function identifier that identifies a new function to be installed on the user terminal, and installed function identifiers that respectively identify one or more functions previously installed on the user terminal;

10 a predicting unit configured to specify the new function and the one or more installed functions based on the new function identifier and the installed function identifiers received by the receiving unit, and predict whether the new function will be successfully installed on the user terminal; and

15 an alerting unit configured to notify the user terminal of the prediction made by the predicting unit.

2. The function managing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

20 a memory unit configured to associate and store combinations of a plurality of function identifiers that specify a plurality of functions, and data indicating whether or not any function among the plurality of functions has been successfully installed a user terminal on which another function has been previously installed; wherein

25 the predicting unit is configured to search the memory unit using combinations of one or more installed function identifiers and new function identifiers as search keys, and  
30 predict whether the new function will be successfully installed based on the search result.

3. The function managing apparatus according to Claim

2, wherein

the memory unit is configured to store, as a prediction result, data indicating whether or not any function among the plurality of functions will be successfully installed in a user terminal on which another function has been previously installed; and

the predicting unit is configured to set, as a prediction result, data indicating whether a function will be successfully installed that is stored in an entry hit as a result of the search.

4. The function managing apparatus according to Claim

2, wherein

the predicting unit is configured to determine that the prediction result is unclear when no entry is hit as a result of the search of the memory unit; and

the alerting unit is configured to notify the user terminal that it is unclear whether the new function will be successfully installed.

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5. The function managing apparatus according to Claim

2, wherein

the receiving unit is configured to receive the installation sequence of the functions installed on the user

terminal;

the memory unit is configured to associate and store the installation sequence of the plurality of functions, and data indicating whether the function last installed among the plurality of functions was successfully installed in a user terminal on which another function was previously installed; and

the predicting unit is configured to read from the memory unit the data indicating whether the new function was

successfully installed in the user terminal on which one or more installed functions were previously installed.

6. The function managing apparatus according to Claim 5 2, further comprising:
- a result collecting unit configured to collect data indicating whether a new function was successfully installed on the user terminal from the user terminal; and
  - an updating unit configured to update the memory unit 10 based on the data collected by the result collecting unit.

7. The function managing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:
- a function classifying unit configured to classify and 15 store functions having similar functions;
  - an alternate searching unit configured to search the function classification unit for another function similar to the new function in accordance with the prediction result of the predicting unit; wherein
  - the alerting unit is configured to notify the user 20 terminal of the function identifier identifying the other function found by the alternate searching unit.